

App. No. 10/721,137
Office Action Dated October 28, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 12-18, 27, and 42-44 are hereby amended. Claims 6-10, 19, and 28-30 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The feature of claim 19 has been included in claim 1. Appropriate portions of claim 11, from which claim 19 depended, have been included in claim 1 as well. The remaining claims have been amended editorially.

Claims 1-5 were rejected as being unpatentable over Welter (US 5,074,477) in view of Adelman (US 5,251,824). Applicants traverse this rejection. Claim 1 includes allowable subject matter of claim 19, which was not subjected to this rejection. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot. Applicant is not conceding the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration of claims 1-5 is requested.

Claims 6-18, 27-30, and 42-44 were rejected as being unpatentable over Welter, in view of Adelman, and further in view of Matsuda (US 6,598,813). Applicants traverse this rejection. Claims 6-10 and 28-30 are canceled. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to claims 6-10 and 28-30. The rejected claims depend from claim 1, which includes allowable subject matter of claim 19. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot. Applicant is not conceding the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration of claims 11-18, 27, and 42-44 is requested.

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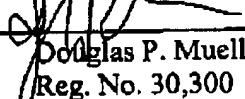
In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)455-3804.



Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 21, 2005

By 
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DPM:mfe